

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TANANA 00424 011605Z

54

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 039706

P 011300Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6131

S E C R E T TANANARIVE 0424

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MA, US

SUBJ: INFLUENCING MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA

REF: TANANARIVE 0420

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM

BEGIN SUMMAR: UNLESS WE PREPARED ACT FAST, FONMIN RATSIRAKA
LIKELY BE ALIENATED VIS-A-VIS US BY IMPOSITION ON HIM OF GEN
RAMANANTSOA'S DECISION EXTEND NASA STATION AT OUR REQUEST.
SUCH ALIENATION WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON RANGE OF
IMPORTANT ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US RE WHICH POWER OF DECISION
IN MOST CASES RESTS WITH RATSIRAKA. GIVEN PRINCIPAL FACTORS
MOTIVATING RATSIRAKA'S POLICIES AND ACTIONS, I BELIEVE BEST
MEANS OF TRYING BRING HIM AROUND WOULD BE BY AUTHORIZING ME TO
CONVEY TO HIM US READINESS CONSIDER ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR
MADAGASCAR FOR FY75. SINCE RATSIRAKA MAY BE SUMMONED BACK AS
EARLY AS THIS WEEKEND TO BE INFORMED OF RAMANANTSOA'S DECISION
AND MAY REMAIN IN MADAGASCAR SHORT TIME ONLY, TIME IS OF ESS-
ENCE IN ACTION I AM PROPOSING. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY APPROPRIATE
ASSISTANCE YOU CAN RENDER TO SPECIFIC PROPOSAL I AM SENDING TO
AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER. END SUMMARY.

1. WE EXTREMELY PLEASED WE HAVE GOT WHAT US SOUGHT WITH RESPECT
TO THREE-YEAR EXTENSION OF NASA STATION. AS YOU KNOW FROM REF-
TEL, WE WERE ABLE TO GET FAVORABLE GOMR DECISION ONLY BY GOING
AROUND FONMIN RATSIRAKA AND WORKING THROUGH GEN ANDRIAMAHAZO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TANANA 00424 011605Z

WHO OBTAINED DECISION FROM HEAD OF GOVT GEN RAMANANTSOA. RAMA-

NANTSOA WILL NOW IMPOSE THIS DECISION ON RATSIRAKA.

2. THIS ACHIEVEMENT WILL EXACT ITS PRICE IN TERMS OF PROBABLE ALIENATION OF RATSIRAKA FROM US UNLESS WE PREPARED ACT FAST TO BRING HIM BACK TOWARD MORE FAVORABLE DISPOSITION.

3. SEEMS TO ME ESSENTIAL WE MAKE STRONG EFFORT DO SO AS RATSIRAKA REMAINS VERY IMPORTANT TO US INTERESTS IN MALAGASY SCHEME OF THINGS. MEANS OF OBTAINING DECISION ON NASA STATION EXTENSION BY RESORT TO HEAD OF GOVT IS ABNORMAL AND CAN SCARCELY BE REPEATED. AS IN PAST, IT WILL USUALLY BE RATSIRAKA WHO MAKES MALAGASY DECISIONS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO USG. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE APPEAR BE SEVERAL ISSUES AHEAD IN WHICH HIS ROLE WILL BE IMPORTANT AND USUALLY PRIMORDIAL:

(A) WITH GROWING US INTEREST IN INDIAN OCEAN, I ASSUME WE WANT MADAGASCAR TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST A BALANCED POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA AND SOVIET NAVAL OPERATIONS, AND NOT MOVE TOWARD CLEARLY ONE-SIDED TYPE OF APPROACH ADOPTED BY INDIA. THIS DECISION LIKELY TO BE RATSIRAKA'S.

(B) AT SOME POINT, I SUPPOSE WE SHALL WANT TO TRY GET GOMR AGREE TO RESUMPTION US NAVAL SHIP VISITS TO MALAGASY PORTS. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN RATSIRAKA ROLE DECISIVE HERE.

(C) STATE 062535 HAS ASKED US SEEK GOMR SUPPORT ON KHMER AND PRG ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WHILE I CAN OFFER NO HOPE WITH RESPECT TO GOMR ON KHMER ISSUE, I AM PREPARED TRY AT RIGHT MOMENT ON PRG ISSUE, BUT RATSIRAKA WILL MAKE DECISION.

(D) HE PLAYS KEY ROLE WITHIN GOMR ON LAW OF SEA ISSUES.

(E) ON ACCESS TO MALAGASY RAW MATERIALS, WHICH OF GROWING INTEREST TO US FIRMS, RATSIRAKA ALSO LIKELY EXERT IMPORTANT INFLUENCE.

4. MOREOVER, AS WE LOOK FURTHER DOWN ROAD, RATSIRAKA IS ONE OF THREE MOST LIKELY SUCCESSORS TO RAMANANTSOA AS HEAD OF GOVT. THUS WHEN NASA STATION AGREEMENT COMES UP FOR FURTHER RENEWAL AT END 1976, HE MAY BE IN FINAL POSITION OF AUTHORITY.

5. HOW CAN WE BRING RATSIRAKA AROUND TOWARD MORE FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TOWARD US? HE IS MOTIVATED MAINLY BY TWO FACTORS:

(A) GETTING MAXIMUM OUT OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR MADAGASCAR (CONSISTENT WITH MALAGASY INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY) AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TANANA 00424 011605Z

(B) BUILDING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HIS PERSONAL POLITICAL AMBITIONS (TO WHICH FIRST FACTOR IS, OF COURSE, STRONGLY LINKED). WE KNOW HE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT GETTING LARGE NUMBER OF US SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MALAGASY WHEN HE VISITED US IN SUMMER OF 73. HE ALSO FEELS PRC HAS BEEN MORE RESPONSIVE TO URGENT MALAGASY RICE NEEDS OVER PAST YEAR THAN USG.

6. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AID IS CHEF TOOL AVAILABLE TO

US TO INFLUENCE RATSIRAKA FAVORABLY. AS I INDICATED TO YOUR PREDECESSORS DURING CONSULTATIONS IN WAS IN DEC, US INTERESTS IN MADAGASCAR ARE BEST PROMOTED BY ABOUT ONE GOOD-SIZED AID PROJECT PER YEAR. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE HAVE, OF COURSE, FURTHER CONFIRMED ME IN THIS VIEW. I AM THEREFORE SENDING AN FY-75 AID PROPOSAL TO AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ADAMS BY SEPTTEL. PLEASE MAKE THIS CABLE AVAILABLE TO THEM IN EXPLANATION OF MY REQUEST.

7. IF YOU AGREE WITH ABOVE REASONING ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF MADAGASCAR TO US INTERESTS, I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE FY-75 AID PROPOSAL WHATEVER SUPPORT YOU APPROPRIATELY CAN. SINCE RATSIRAKA MAY BE BACK IN TANANARIVE AS EARLY AS COMING WEEKEND AND STAY ONLY SHORT TIME, IT WOULD BE BEST IF I COULD GET TO HIM AT THAT TIME SO THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE LONG PERIOD TO BROOD AND BUILD UP RESENTMENT AGAINST US. THUS, WASH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY THIS WEEKEND TO CONSIDERATION OF ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR MADAGASCAR FOR FY-75 UP TO A SPECIFIED AMOUNT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO ME, AND I HOPE FEASIBLE FROM WASHINGTON'S STANDPOINT.
MENDENHALL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRACKING STATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, WEATHER SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1974
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TANANA00424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740071-0915
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740476/aaaacsbs.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: TANANARIVE 0420
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFLUENCING MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MA, US, (RATSIRAKA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005